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Birds collected at Laredo, Texas, in 1866 and 1867." By Dr. H. B. Butcher.

May 12th.

Mr. Vaux, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following were presented for publication: "Description of Four new species of Exotic Unionidæ," and "Description of Twenty-six new species of Melanidæ of the United States." By Isaac Lea, LL.D.

"Monœcism in Luzula campestris," and "Variations in Epigea repens." By Thos. Meehan.

Prof. Edw. D. Cope defined the characters of a new genus of Cheloniidæ, which represented the modern marine turtles in the Cretaceous green sand of New Jersey. It differed in the considerably greater co-ossification of the disc and marginal bones posteriorly and anteriorly. The anterior rib is attached to one marginal in advance of that to which it is connected in Chelone. He called it OSTEOPYGIS, and exhibited a specimen of the type species—O. emarginatus Cope—of which about half the carapace and plastron were preserved, and which indicated an animal of about the size of the green turtle. It was presented to theAcademy by Dr. Samuel Ashhurst.

Prof. Cope stated that he was more or less acquainted with four species of the genus: O. sopitus (Chelone Leidy), O. chelydrinus Cope, and O. repandus Cope, all of the same or larger size than the type.

May 19th.

Mr. Vaux, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

Prof. Cope called attention of the Academy to the rarity of Ophidian remains, and to the fact that none had been discovered in North America up to the present time. He then exhibited two vertebræ of a serpent of or near the family of the Boas, from the green sand of Squankum, Monmouth Co., N. J., which had been discovered by Dr. Knieskern.

Peculiar interest attached to these specimens, from the fact that they came from a bed which has recently been stated, by Conrad, to be an equivalent of the older Eocene or London clay of the Thames valley. They confirm this identification exactly, since they belong to Owen's genus Palæophis, which is characteristic of those beds in England. They indicate a species intermediate between the two larger described by Prof. Owen, and of some fifteen feet in length. It was associated with remains of crocodiles, sting-rays and saw-fishes, and was named, from its geographical and geological location, PALAEOPHIS LITTORALIS Cope.

The type specimens belong to the Geological Survey of New Jersey, under Prof. George Cook, and were lent by him for description.

Dr. Hayden read a letter from Prof. Leo Lesquereux, identifying the fossil plants of the coal formation of the south-west, as follows:

"I was unwell when your boxes of fossil plants arrived, and was not able to examine the specimens before now.

" Most of the leaves, which are well preserved indeed, belong to a new species of *Ficus*. It resembles *Ficus lanceolatus*, Heer., a miocene species, but differs by leaves being broader, mostly rounded at base, and not *always* alternated to the petiole. The medial nerves and shorter pedicel are thicker. Some of the leaves, which are narrower and narrowed to the petiole, present the form and appearance of *Ficus lanceolatus*, but the specific difference is marked by the thick nerves and shorter petiole.

"Among these leaves there are two fragments of leaves of a *Cinnamomum*, referrable perhaps to *C. affine*, Lesqx.; a large leaf of *Platanus*, probably *P. aceroides?* Aug., whose borders are destroyed, and a *Populus* with round leaves—*Populus subrotundus*, Lesqx.—found also by Dr. Hayden at Rock Creek.

" Besides these species, the specimens show a number of fragments of a *Cyperus*, apparently a new species. The nervation is that of *Cyperus charanensis*, Heer., but the leaves, 1½ inches broad, are twice as broad as in the European species."

Dr. Hayden considered this as confirming his opinion that the lignite beds of that region were of tertiary age.

Dr. Le Conte said that the question of the geological age of that section must be solved by a consideration of the relative positions of the strata, rather than by comparison of the fossil plants found therein.

May 26th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

The following gentlemen were elected members: Mr. Edward Lewis, Jas. Truman, M. D., Wm. Trueman, M. D., Mr. S. Fisher Corlies, Mr. T. W. Starr, Edw. Rhoads, M.D., T. H. Andrews, M.D., Herbert Norris, M. D., Mr. Jas. S. Gilliams, Mr. Charles Bullock, Mr. Edw. L. Huitt, Mr. I. Zentmayer, Mr. Aug. F. Müller, F. F. Maury, M.D., Horace Williams, M.D., Mr. Wm. H. Walmsley, Mr. T. L. Buckingham.

The following were elected correspondents: Mr. Augustus Fendler, of Allenton, Mo.; Hon. J. S. Wilson, of Washington, D.C.; Mr. A. R. Roesler, Washington, D. C.; Prof. John Tomes, F.R.S., of London.

On favorable reports of the committees, the following papers were ordered to be published:

List of BIRDS collected at Laredo, Texas, in 1866 and 1867.

BY H. B. BUTCHER, M. D.

The list of birds here given embraces the species collected by me at Laredo, Texas, on the Rio Grande river, while engaged as Acting Assistant Surgeon of the U. S. Army; and is presented as a contribution to the subject of the geographical distribution of the birds of North America. No new species but many quite rare species were procured. The most interesting result of my examinations at Laredo was the discovery in abundance of *Scardafella inca*, a species not previously obtained north of the Rio Grande.

The collections made were first sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and a series afterwards presented to this Academy. I am indebted to Prof. Baird for assistance in identifying the species.

A comparison of this list with that of the birds collected in Texas by Mr. Dresser will be found of interest.